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**FEE TRANSMITTAL**  
**for FY 2004**

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$) **330**

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/813,592
Filing Date	March 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	Daniel J. Lubera
Examiner Name	James R. Brittain
Art Unit	3677
Attorney Docket No.	0275M-000320/CPA

**METHOD OF PAYMENT** (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money ☐ Other ☐ None  
Order

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number: 02-2548

Deposit Account Name: Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc.

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments  
☒ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application  
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

**FEE CALCULATION**

**1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	
<b>SUBTOTAL (1)</b>					(\$) 0

**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

Total Claims: 20 \*\* = 0 X Fee from below = 0

Independent Claims: 3 \*\* = 0 X Fee from below = 0

Multiple Dependent: X Fee from below = 0

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20	
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3	
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent	
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	
<b>SUBTOTAL (2)</b>					(\$) 0

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

**FEE CALCULATION** (continued)

**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal	
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	330
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee	
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify) _____					
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid					
<b>SUBTOTAL (3)</b>					(\$) 330

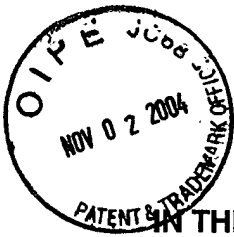
**SUBMITTED BY**

Name (Print/Type)	Michael D. Zalozsky	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	45,512	Telephone	248-641-1600
Signature				Date	November 2, 2004

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/813,592  
Filing Date: 03/21/2001  
Applicant: Daniel J. Lubera et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3677  
Examiner: Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Title: RESILIENT CLIP FASTENER  
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000320/CPA

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**APPEAL BRIEF**

Sir:

This is an appeal brief in support of an appeal from the June 2, 2004 final rejection of Claims 101 through 111.

11/04/2004 SZEWDIE1 00000012 022548 09813592

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### ***REAL PARTY IN INTEREST***

Emhart Inc., being the assignee of the present application, is the real party in interest.

### ***RELATED APPEALS & INTERFERENCES***

To the best of Appellant's knowledge, no other appeals or interferences are pending which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present pending appeal.

### ***STATUS OF THE CLAIMS***

On September 2, 2004, Appellant appealed from the final rejection of Claims 101 through 111. Claims 9 through 14, 18, 19, 22, and 68 through 94 have been allowed. Claims 1 through 8, 15 through 17, 20 through 21, 23 through 67 and 95 through 100 have been canceled. Claims 112 and 113 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

A copy of the claims at issue is provided in attached Appendix A.

A copy of the Office Action mailed June 2, 2004 placing the present application under final rejection is provided in attached Appendix B.

A copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,759,004 to Kuffel is provided in attached Appendix C.

A copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,251,467 to Anderson is provided in attached Appendix D.

## ***STATUS OF AMENDMENTS***

No amendment to the claims has been filed or is pending subsequent to the entry of the final rejection.

## ***SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION***

The invention relates to a clip that includes a plurality of twisted wings that co-engage a member into which the clip is inserted. The clip can include a body portion (60) with an insertion portion (80) and a retaining portion (82). The insertion portion (80) can have two portions (86) that are disposed on opposite sides of a longitudinal axis (42) of the clip and which define an outer planar surface that is angled upwardly and outwardly (i.e., the width of the insertion portion 80 gets larger as it is pushed farther into a hole in the member to which it is to be secured). The retaining portion (82) includes at least one wing member (100) for each of the portions (86) of the insertion portion (80). Each wing member (100) includes a base portion (108), which is co-planar and coextends with the outer planar surface of an associated one of the portions (86) of the insertion portion (80) and a tip portion (120) that is twisted or warped. Configuration in this manner permits the clip to withstand relatively high pull-out forces yet be installed with a relatively low insertion force.

## ***ISSUES***

Appellants present the following issues for review:

Whether or not Claims 101-103, 105, and 107-110 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or §103(a) as being anticipated/obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,759,004 to Kuffel.

Whether or not Claim 106 is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,759,004 to Kuffel and U.S. Patent No. 5,251,467 to Anderson.

### ***GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS***

Claims 101, 105 and 109 through 111 stand or fall together, Claims 102 through 104 stand or fall together, Claim 106 stands or falls by itself and Claims 107 and 108 stand or fall together. The reasons for the several groupings of claims will become apparent from the discussion below.

### ***ARGUMENTS***

#### **Rejections Based Solely on Kuffel**

- Claim 101

Appellant initially notes that the Examiner has stated that each of the legs (18) of the Kuffel cable tie mount define a retaining portion with at least one wing member (i.e., the portion of each leg 18 under an end surface 20) and that each of these wing members has a warped planar outer surface that coextends with the outer planar surface of an insertion portion.

Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner's assessment of the Kuffel cable tie mount is incorrect as the Kuffel cable tie mount does not include wing members "having a warped planar outer surface that coextends with the outer planar surface of an associated one of the portions of the insertion portion". Applicant notes, too, that the term "warped" means twisted.

Appellant notes that the legs (18) of the Kuffel cable tie mount (10) are configured such that their opposite lateral sides are inwardly offset. In this regard, the entire portion of the leg (18) below each end surface (20) is coplanar and bent

inwardly. Accordingly, the portion of the Kuffel cable tie mount (10) that the Examiner has characterized as being a "wing" (i.e., the portion of each leg 18 under an end surface 20) is not warped but rather simply co-planar with a remaining portion of the leg (18).

It is well settled that "the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of anticipation resides with the Patent and Trademark Office." *In re Skinner*, 2 USPQ 2d 1788, 1788-89 (B.P.A.I. 1986). If the examination at the initial stage does not produce a *prima facie* case of unpatentability, then without more the applicant is entitled to grant of the patent. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ 2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In *W.L. Gore & Associates v. Garlock, Inc.*, the Federal Circuit stated that "anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). It is not enough, however, that the reference disclose all the claimed elements in isolation. Rather, as stated by the Federal Circuit, the prior art reference must disclose each element of the claimed invention "arranged as in the claim". *Lindermann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of anticipation. In this regard, the '004 patent to Kuffel does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claim 101. Accordingly, '004 patent to Kuffel is not "a single prior art reference that discloses each element of the claim under consideration" and as such, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 101 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot stand.

Appellant notes that Claims 102 through 113 depend from Claim 101 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claim 101, above.

- Claims 102 through 104

Appellant notes that Claim 102 specifies that “each of the tip portions [of the wing members] is angled such that a lateral end of a first one of the wing members extends above a corresponding lateral end of a second one of the wing members that is disposed on an opposite side of the longitudinal axis”. The Examiner has stated that this condition is illustrated in Figure 4 of the Kuffel reference. Appellant notes, however, that Figures 4 and 7 illustrate the portion of the Kuffel cable tie mount (10) that the Examiner has characterized as being a “wing” (i.e., the portion of each leg 18 under an end surface 20) as terminating in a common plane that is generally perpendicular to an insertion axis.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of anticipation or obviousness. In this regard, the '004 patent to Kuffel does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claims 102, 103 or 104. Accordingly, '004 patent to Kuffel is not “a single prior art reference that discloses each element of the claim under consideration” and as such, the Examiner’s rejection of Claim 102 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot stand.

Appellant notes that Claims 103 and 104 depend from Claim 102 and should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claim 102, above.



- Claims 107 and 108

Appellant notes that Claim 107 specifies that each wing member includes a base that is fixedly coupled to the insertion portion and that each wing member is twisted from the base portion to the tip portion through an angle of about 5° to about 45°. Claim 108, which depends from Claim 107, specifies that the angle is about 30°. As noted above in the discussion of Claim 101, the portion of the Kuffel cable tie mount (10) that the Examiner has characterized as being a “wing” (i.e., the portion of each leg 18 under an end surface 20) is not twisted through any angle relative to an adjoining portion of the leg (18) but rather is simply co-planar with an inwardly offset portion of the leg (18).

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of anticipation. In this regard, the '004 patent to Kuffel does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claims 107 or 108. Accordingly, '004 patent to Kuffel is not “a single prior art reference that discloses each element of the claim under consideration” and as such, the Examiner’s rejection of Claims 107 and 108 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot stand.

#### Rejections Based on Kuffel and Anderson

Appellant refers the Board to the section entitled “Rejections Based Solely on Kuffel” for a discussion of the Kuffel reference.

Appellant next notes that the Anderson reference is directed to a locking mechanism that may be installed to the front of a cabinet. The mechanism includes a retaining spring (21) with legs (25) that are forced into a hole in the front of the cabinet. The legs (25) spring outwardly and engage the edges of the hole to thereby fixedly secure the lock mechanism in place.

In view of the above, Appellant respectfully submits that the Office has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The establishment of a *prima facie* case of obviousness requires some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. See, e.g., *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Moreover, the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination must be found in the prior art, and not based on an applicant's disclosure. *Id.*

Appellant also notes that the Patent Laws draw a distinction between trade-offs and motivation to combine: trade-offs often concern what is feasible, not what is necessarily desirable, whereas motivation to combine requires the latter. See, e.g., *Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang*, 2002 F.3d 1340, 53 USPQ2d 1580 (Fed. Cir.), *cert. denied*, 530 U.S. 1238 (2000).

In the instant case, the Examiner argues that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use a plurality of teeth in the edge of the wing members as shown by Anderson in the resilient clip disclosed by Kuffel." Appellant notes, however, that the Kuffel cable tie mount does not seek to engage the edges of the hole but rather the bottom surface of the plate into which the mount is inserted. Consequently, it appears that the motivation for the modification is impermissibly found in Appellant's disclosure as the addition of teeth to the ends of the legs of the Kuffel reference would appear to serve no useful purpose. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 106 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) cannot stand.

**CONCLUSION**

Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness. Accordingly, reversal of the final rejection of Claims 101 through 111 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael D. Zalobsky', written over a horizontal line.

Michael D. Zalobsky, Reg. No. 45,512  
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Date: November 2, 2004



## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

1 through 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A resilient clip for use in securing a first member to a second member, the resilient clip comprising:

a flange portion having an aperture, the aperture adapted to receive a threaded fastener to couple the second member to the flange portion;

an insertion portion configured to be inserted into a hole formed into the first member, the insertion portion being coupled to the flange portion; and

a retaining portion coupled to the insertion portion and having first and second wing members, the first wing member being twisted about a first axis in a first direction, the second wing member being twisted about a second axis in the first direction, each of the first and second wing members terminating at a tip portion the tip portion of the first wing member and the tip portion of the second wing member being configured to co-engage the first member;

wherein each of the first and second axes are generally parallel a longitudinal axis of the retaining portion; and

wherein the retaining portion includes first and second abutting flanges having a base that is spaced vertically apart from the first and second wing members, respectively, each of the bases of the first and second abutting flanges being configured to abut a surface of the first member opposite a surface into which the first and second wing members, respectively, are engaged.

10. (Original) The resilient clip of Claim 9, wherein the bases of the first and second abutting flanges are spaced apart from the flange portion.

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

11. (Original) The resilient clip of Claim 9, wherein the bases of the first and second abutting flanges and the flange portion are disposed within a common plane.

12. (Previously Presented) A resilient clip for use in securing a first member to a second member, the resilient clip comprising:

a flange portion having an aperture, the aperture adapted to receive a threaded fastener to couple the second member to the flange portion;

an insertion portion configured to be inserted into a hole formed into the first member, the insertion portion being coupled to the flange portion; and

a retaining portion coupled to the insertion portion and having first and second wing members, the first wing member being twisted about a first axis in a first direction, the second wing member being twisted about a second axis in the first direction, each of the first and second wing members terminating at a tip portion the tip portion of the first wing member and the tip portion of the second wing member being configured to co-engage the first member;

wherein each of the first and second axes are generally parallel a longitudinal axis of the retaining portion; and

wherein the insertion portion is defined by a pair of flanges that are spaced apart about a central axis of the resilient clip, each of the flanges having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, the first portion being coupled to the flange portion and tapering inwardly toward the central axis and downwardly from the flange portion, the second portion being coupled to an end of the first portion opposite the flange portion and extending downwardly therefrom generally parallel the central axis, the third portion being coupled to an end of the second portion

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

opposite the first portion and tapering outwardly away from the central axis and upwardly toward the flange portion.

13. (Original) The resilient clip of Claim 12, wherein each of the flanges further includes a fastener aperture formed into the first, second and third portions, the fastener aperture being configured to provide clearance for the fastener.

14. (Original) The resilient clip of Claim 12, the insertion portion has a pair of tapered sides that taper downwardly and inwardly toward the central axis.

15. through 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A resilient clip for use in securing a first member to a second member, the resilient clip comprising:

a flange portion having an aperture, the aperture adapted to receive a threaded fastener to couple the second member to the flange portion;

an insertion portion configured to be inserted into a hole formed into the first member, the insertion portion being coupled to the flange portion;

a retaining portion coupled to the insertion portion and having first and second wing members, the first wing member being twisted about a first axis in a first direction, the second wing member being twisted about a second axis in the first direction, each of the first and second wing members terminating at a tip portion the tip portion of the first wing member and the tip portion of the second wing member being configured to co-engage the first member;

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

a spacing structure having first and second flange members, the first flange member being coupled to the flange portion, the second flange member being coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion;

wherein each of the first and second axes are generally parallel a longitudinal axis of the retaining portion; and

wherein the spacing structure further includes a coupling member that engages and fixedly couples the flange portion to the spacing structure.

19. (Original) The resilient clip of Claim 18, wherein the coupling member includes at least one weld protrusion, the weld protrusion extending through a protrusion aperture formed in the flange portion and thereafter being deformed to inhibit the withdrawal of the weld protrusion from the protrusion aperture.

20. & 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A resilient clip for use in securing a first member to a second member, the resilient clip comprising:

a flange portion having an aperture, the aperture adapted to receive a threaded fastener to couple the second member to the flange portion;

an insertion portion configured to be inserted into a hole formed into the first member, the insertion portion being coupled to the flange portion;

a retaining portion coupled to the insertion portion and having first and second wing members, the first wing member being twisted about a first axis in a first direction, the second wing member being twisted about a second axis in the first direction, each

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

of the first and second wing members terminating at a tip portion the tip portion of the first wing member and the tip portion of the second wing member being configured to co-engage the first member;

a spacing structure having first and second flange members, the first flange member being coupled to the flange portion, the second flange member being coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion;

wherein each of the first and second axes are generally parallel a longitudinal axis of the retaining portion; and

wherein the first flange member includes a recessed cavity sized to receive and locate the flange portion.

23. through 67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 9, wherein each of the tip portions is angled such that a portion of an associated one of the first and second wing members nearest a centerline of the aperture in the flange portion is longer than a portion of the associated one of the first and second wing members farthest from the centerline of the aperture in the flange portion.

69. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 68, wherein the tip portion is defined by an included angle of about 30° to about 80°.

70. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 69, wherein the included angle of the tip portion is about 60°.



## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

71. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 68, wherein the tip portion has a flat edge for contacting the first member.

72. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 68, wherein the tip portion has an edge for contacting the first member into which a plurality of teeth are formed.

73. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 9, wherein each of the first and second wing members further includes a base portion that is fixedly coupled to the insertion portion, the first and second wing members being twisted such that their tip portions are twisted relative to their base portion by an angle of about 5° to about 45°.

74. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 73, wherein the angle is about 30°.

75. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 9, further including a spacing structure having first and second flange members, the first flange member being coupled to the flange portion, the second flange member being coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion.

76. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 75, wherein the spacing structure is formed from a resilient material.

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

77. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 76, wherein the resilient material is plastic.

78. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 75, wherein the first flange member is circular in shape.

79. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 75, wherein the second flange member extends entirely around a perimeter of the first flange member.

80. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 12, wherein each of the tip portions is angled such that a portion of an associated one of the first and second wing members nearest a centerline of the aperture in the flange portion is longer than a portion of the associated one of the first and second wing members farthest from the centerline of the aperture in the flange portion.

81. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 80, wherein the tip portion is defined by an included angle of about 30° to about 80°.

82. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 81, wherein the included angle of the tip portion is about 60°.

83. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 80, wherein the tip portion has a flat edge for contacting the first member.

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

84. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 80, wherein the tip portion has an edge for contacting the first member into which a plurality of teeth are formed.

85. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 12, wherein each of the first and second wing members further includes a base portion that is fixedly coupled to the insertion portion, the first and second wing members being twisted such that their tip portions are twisted relative to their base portion by an angle of about 5° to about 45°.

86. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 85, wherein the angle is about 30°.

87. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 12, wherein the retaining portion includes first and second abutting flanges having a base that is spaced vertically apart from the first and second wing members, respectively, each of the bases of the first and second abutting flanges being configured to abut a surface of the first member opposite a surface into which the first and second wing members, respectively, are engaged.

88. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 87, wherein the bases of the first and second abutting flanges are spaced apart from the flange portion.

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

89. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 87, wherein the bases of the first and second abutting flanges and the flange portion are disposed within a common plane.

90. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 12, further including a spacing structure having first and second flange members, the first flange member being coupled to the flange portion, the second flange member being coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion.

91. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 90, wherein the spacing structure is formed from a resilient material.

92. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 91, wherein the resilient material is plastic.

93. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 90, wherein the first flange member is circular in shape.

94. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 90, wherein the second flange member extends entirely around a perimeter of the first flange member.

95. through 100. (Canceled)

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

101. (Previously Presented) A resilient clip for use in securing a first member to a second member to a second member, the resilient clip comprising:

a flange portion;

an insertion portion that is coupled to the flange portion and configured to be inserted into a hole formed into the first member, the insertion portion having two portions that are disposed on opposite sides of a longitudinal axis of the resilient clip, each of the portions of the insertion portion defining an outer planar surface that is angled upwardly toward the flange portion and outwardly away from the longitudinal axis; and

a retaining portion coupled to the insertion portion, the retaining portion including at least one wing member for each of the portions of the insertion portion, each wing member having a warped planar outer surface that coextends with the outer planar surface of an associated one of the portions of the insertion portion, the warped planar outer surface being disposed on a same side of the longitudinal axis as the outer planar surface of the associated one of the portions of the insertion portion;

wherein each wing member terminates at a tip portion and each of the tip portions are configured to co-engage the first member.

102. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 101, wherein each of the tip portions is angled such that a lateral end of a first one of the wing members extends above a corresponding lateral end of a second one of the wing members that is disposed on an opposite side of the longitudinal axis.

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

103. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 102, wherein each tip portion is defined by an included angle of about 30° to about 80°.

104. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 104, wherein the included angle of each tip portion is about 60°.

105. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 101, wherein each tip portion has a flat edge for contacting the first member.

106. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 101, wherein each tip portion has an edge for contacting the first member into which a plurality of teeth are formed.

107. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 101, wherein each of the first and second wing members further includes a base portion that is fixedly coupled to the insertion portion, the first and second wing members being twisted such that their tip portions are twisted relative to their base portion by an angle of about 5° to about 45°.

108. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 106, wherein the angle is about 30°.

109. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 101, further including a spacing structure having first and second flange members, the first flange member being coupled to the flange portion, the second flange member being

## Appendix A: Claims At Issue

coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion.

110. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 108, wherein the spacing structure is formed from a resilient material.

111. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 109, wherein the resilient material is plastic.

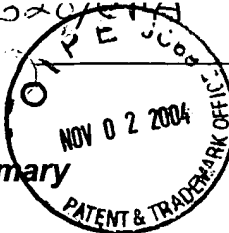
112. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 108, wherein the first flange member is circular in shape.

113. (Previously Presented) The resilient clip of Claim 108, wherein the second flange member extends entirely around a perimeter of the first flange member.



027511-000520/ETH  
Final OIA  
Due 9-2-0

✓CMB  
✓MDZ



# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/813,592

Applicant(s)

LUBERA ET AL.

Examiner

Ruth C Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14, 18, 19, 22, 68-94 and 101-113 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14, 18, 19, 22 and 68-94 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 101-111 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 112 and 113 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).
2. Misnumbered claims 102 (second occurrence)-110 been renumbered 103-111.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 101-103, 105 and 107-110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuffel (US 5,759,004).

A resilient clip (10) secures a first member (30) to a second member (26,28) (Figs. 1, 9 and 10). The resilient clip comprising a flange portion (lower portion of 14), an inserting portion (18) and a retaining portion (20). The insertion portion is coupled to the flange portion and inserts into a hole (32) formed into the first member (Figs. 1, 9 and 10). The inserting portion has two portions that are disposed on opposite side of a

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longitudinal side of a longitudinal axis of the resilient clip (Figs. 1-9). Each of the portion of the insertion portion defines an outer planar surface that is angled upwardly toward the flange portion and outwardly away from the longitudinal axis (Fig. 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10). The retaining portion is coupled to the insertion portion and includes at least one wing member (20) for each of the portions of the insertion portion. Each wing member has a warped planar outer surface that coextends with the outer planar surface of an associated one of the portion of the insertion portion (Figs. 2-4 and 6-10). The warped outer surface is disposed on a same side of the longitudinal axis as the outer planar surface of the associated one of the portions of the insertion portion (Figs. 2-4 and 6-10). Each wing member terminates at a tip portion and each of the tip portions are co-engage the first member (Figs. 1-10).

Kuffel also discloses that:

- Each of the tip portions is angled such that a lateral end of the first one of the wing members extends above a corresponding lateral end of a second one of the wing members that is disposed on an opposite side of the longitudinal axis (Fig. 4).
- The tip portion is defined by an included angle of about 30 degrees to about 80 degrees (Fig. 4).
- Each tip portion has a flat edge for contacting the first member (Figs. 1-10).
- Each of the first and second wing members further include a base portion (16a) that is fixedly coupled to the insertion portion (Figs. 2-5). The first and second wing members being twisted such that the their tip portions are twisted relative to their base portion by an angle of about 5 degrees to about 45 degrees (Figs. 6).

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- The angle is about 30 degrees (Fig. 6).
- The resilient clip further includes a spacing structure (16, upper part of 14) having first (upper part of 14) and second (16) flange members (Figs. 1-10). The first flange member is coupled to the flange portion and the second flange member is coupled to an outer edge of the first flange member and tapering downwardly toward the retaining portion and outwardly from the flange portion (Figs. 1-5, 7, 8 and 10).
- The spacing structure is formed from resilient material.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claim 104 and 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuffel.

Kuffel discloses that the included angle is about 30 degrees. Kuffel fails to disclose that the included angle of the tip portion is about 60 degrees. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have the included angle of the tip portion being about 60 degrees. A change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

The resilient clip disclosed by Kuffel is made from sheet metal and therefore the spacing structure will also be made from sheet metal. Kuffel fails to disclose that the spacing structure is made from a resilient material where the resilient material is plastic.

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However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the resilient clip made from plastic such that the spacing structure will also be made from plastic because the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960). In this case, the use of plastic is widely known in the art for the resilient clips because this material has a lighter weight and provides protection to the clip due to exposure to the weather.

7. Claims 106 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuffel in view of Anderson (US 5,251,467).

Kuffel discloses a resilient clip having the limitations listed above in paragraph 4 for the rejection of claim 101. Kuffel fails to disclose that the tip portion has an edge for contacting the first member into which a plurality of teeth is formed. However, Anderson teaches a cam lock comprising a pair of wing members (25). The wing members initially are shown have an edge with a flat surface for contacting a structure (5,6) (Figs. 5 and 6). Anderson also teaches that the wing members have an edge with a plurality of teeth (Fig. 7). The teeth will lock the edges of the wing members against the structure and allow for variations in thickness of the structure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use a plurality of teeth in the edge of the wing members as shown by Anderson in the resilient clip disclosed by Kuffel. Doing so, will lock the edges of the wing members against the structure and allow for variations in the thickness of the structure.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 9-14, 18, 19, 22 and 68-94 are allowed.
9. Claims 112 and 113 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 101-111 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wiley (US 2,217,781), Poutpitch (US 2,509,192), Meyer (US 2,959,259), Osterland et al. (US 4,630,338), Kuffel (US 5,759,004), Cornell et al. (US 5,774,949) and Danby et al. (US 5,873,690) are cited to show state of the art with respect to resilient clips having some of the features disclosed by the current invention.

Hirohata (US 4,668,145) is cited to show state of the art with respect to a flange extending around the periphery of the main body of a fastener.

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Van Order et al. (US 5,636,891) is cited to show state of the art with respect to the use of spacing structures and resilient clips.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

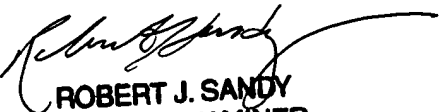
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for before and after final communications is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

rcr  
June 1, 2004

  
**ROBERT J. SANDY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**